



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California*

*501 I Street, Suite 10-100  
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700  
Fax 916/554-2900*

For Immediate Release  
May 26, 2005

*Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706  
Available at: [www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home)*

**SECOND DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY IN CONNECTION WITH MULTI- MILLION  
DOLLAR NATIONWIDE AND INTERNATIONAL CABLE PIRACY**

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today the guilty plea of DARRYL SCOTT POLL for his participation in a nationwide and international cable piracy scheme that resulted in the sale and distribution of approximately 50,000 cable descramblers designed to illicitly obtain cable programming that resulted in gross sales of over \$10 million.

The case is the product of an extensive investigation jointly conducted by the Sacramento Valley Hi Tech Crimes Task Force, the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, and the United States Secret Service, with the assistance of the United States Postal Inspection Service. Investigative assistance was also provided by cable operators Comcast and CSC Holdings, Inc., commonly known as Cablevision.

POLL, age 42, of Moorpark, California entered a guilty plea today before Chief Judge David Levi, United States District Judge, to five felony charges of assisting in the unlawful interception and reception of communications services offered over a cable system. Sentencing as to those counts is currently scheduled for September 1, 2005.

Defendant POLL remains charged with various other crimes including (1) conspiracy to assist in the unlawful interception and reception of communications services offered over a cable system and to commit mail fraud; (2) mail fraud, 10 Counts; (3) assisting in the unlawful interception and reception of communications services offered over a cable system, seven other counts; and (4) conspiracy to commit money laundering. Trial as to these remaining counts is scheduled to commence October 31, 2005.

According to Assistant United States Attorney S. Robert Tice-Raskin, who is managing the criminal prosecution, defendant POLL admitted today that: Between approximately June, 1998 and February, 2003 he, doing business as Wholesale Electronics and Red Rock Group, Ltd., operated a business which manufactured and sold cable television descramblers allowing illicit access to cable programming. Defendant POLL advertised the descramblers extensively through a series of websites on the Internet and also through national magazines. POLL and his employees manufactured and sold the devices from facilities located in Simi Valley, California.

The devices were specifically modified and/or designed to allow consumers to receive premium and pay-per-view cable television programming without the knowledge or authorization of cable operators. As a result, consumers across the county who used the descramblers would be able to receive unlimited cable programming for free, depriving cable operators of subscription fees for the pirated programming. According to the indictment, POLL sold approximately 50,000 illicit descramblers and received over \$10 Million in revenue from these sales.

Defendant POLL faces a maximum penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment and fines of \$1.25 million or twice the pecuniary gain, whichever is higher in connection with these five charges.

POLL is the second defendant to plead guilty in connection with the cable piracy operations. On February 12, 2004, CARLO MIRELES, age 31, previously from Las Vegas, Nevada, entered a guilty plea to seven felony charges associated with the scheme including: (1) conspiracy to assist in the unlawful interception and reception of communications services offered over a cable system and to commit mail fraud, one count; (2) mail fraud, one count; (3) assisting in the unlawful interception and reception of communications services offered over a cable system, four counts; and (4) conspiracy to commit money laundering, one count. Defendant MIRELES admitted that, between May, 1998, and December, 2003, he and POLL, conspired together to acquire, manufacture, and distribute cable television descramblers, for the purpose of assisting individuals in the unauthorized reception of premium and pay-per-view cable television programming. Defendant MIRELES further admitted that he and defendant POLL also engaged in a conspiracy to launder proceeds obtained from the scheme in order to promote the continuation of the scheme. As part of his plea agreement, defendant MIRELES has agreed to cooperate with the government in connection with the pending prosecution. No sentencing date is currently scheduled for defendant MIRELES.

The United States Attorney's Office notes that the complaint and indictment on file are only accusations, and that defendant POLL is presumed innocent with respect to all remaining charges until and unless proven guilty.

###